

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Another year before the prayer of millions is answered “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”.

My reflection this Christmas has been on Mary. She was evidently a very smart and intelligent young woman, and yet also meek and in love with God. Her first surprise was the strange greeting “You have found favour with God” and she is told she will have a child by God himself. She is encouraged to believe this miracle by being told of another; Elizabeth is 5 months pregnant even though she is so old for ‘Nothing is impossible for God’. So she quickly goes to visit Elizabeth leaving her family and friends and husband wondering why.

Elizabeth immediately recognises Mary as ‘the mother of her Lord’; she already knew about Mary’s baby before there was any sign.

Joseph hears Mary is pregnant but is told in a dream that the child is God’s son, to be called Jesus. So when Mary returns to Nazareth, she does not have to explain to him. He takes her in as if the child was his.

But then, Caesar Augustus requires they travel to Bethlehem just as the baby is due. Any immediately, the shepherds come knocking to see the Messiah. The angels told them the same night. And 6 weeks later, they take Jesus to the temple when they offer the standard offering. Simeon and Anna, immediately recognise Jesus. They had been told by the Lord to recognise this child. And then the wise men turn up to worship the child. They had seen the sign of His birth in the stars and had come to worship Him.

But not all love him. Joseph has a dream that Herod will kill the child and immediately they flee to Egypt. The next day, Herod sends the soldiers to kill all the babies. So many people recognising Jesus.

The New Testament ends with Jesus saying “Behold I am coming quickly. And my reward is with me. Surely I come quickly.” Even so, Come Lord Jesus and establish your Kingdom on earth.



Travel has been curtailed in 2020. Ellen was booked to go to Hobart to see Kathleen, Kelvin, Hannah, Hyland and Theo but the border closed. It opened early December, she went for 10 days and it has closed again. Arthur has been nowhere except Ophir and Cargo. Twice we met

Julie-Ann and her family half-way (Dunedoo and Merriwa) to Newcastle. Daisy, Julie-Ann’s daughter has completed HSC with good marks and is interested in a childcare career.

Lois is pleased with her IT results from TAFE. Andrew kept his job during the shutdown.



Our assembly friends from Bathurst have moved to WA so the Assembly is even smaller. But the work is the Lord's and we look to Him to raise up new workers for His vineyard. Cargo Public School is growing and Arthur has continued to teach Scripture there.

Ellen's hip has become more painful and she is looking for a replacement in 2021. She has had to stop her regular walking. Otherwise we are both keeping well.

After over 20 years on the FM103.5 committee, I have resigned since I do not agree with actions that the rest of the committee have endorsed. My daily readings are still going to air, and Lois has organised to put them on U-tube as will (www.cargovale.com.au/calendar).

VSN is continuing to contract me to support ASReml Users. ASReml 4.2 is (all but) released and fits larger models up to 60 times faster (one job reduced from 360 hours to 6 hours!). This has been a lot of work though. Echidna (www.EchidnaMMS.org) has also stabilised and is finding non-commercial users. I expect this will continue in 2021. Thanks Lois for setting up the Echidna website for me.

We don't know what 2021 will bring but Ellen hopes we can get to see Ayres Rock and Darwin.

Arthur and Ellen Gilmour

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